

11284
Wyoming Area School District
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting
Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Thursday, November 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

The combined work session/regular meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education was held this evening in the Secondary Center library, 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643. Thirty people of the public were in attendance. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Mr. Michael Supey, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Mr. Michael Supey, President
Mrs. Kirby Kunkle, Vice President (Virtual)
Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
Mr. Peter Butera, Treasurer
Mr. Philip Campenni
Mr. Michael Kachmarsky
Mr. Joseph Kopko
Mrs. Mara Valenti

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, (virtual attendance), Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, Douglas Piazza, Assistant Principal of Discipline, William Wright, Principal of Primary Center, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Michael Bugelholl, Facilities Director, Angelo Falzone, Attendance/Transportation Director, Denai Dymond and Gage Speece (filled in for Mia Altavilla who was absent), Student Representatives.

Partial Education Report

Mr. Supey stated two candidates applied for the board vacancy, Mrs. Gazda and Mr. Kasa. The Board will vote for the candidate they want to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Alberigi took roll call: Mr. Kopko, Gazda, Mr. Campenni, Gazda, Mrs. Kunkle, Gazda, Mrs. Valenti, Gazda, Mr. Supey, Not going to commit to either name, Mr. Butera, Gazda, Mr. Kachmarsky, Abstained, Mr. Alberigi, Gazda.

1. Motion by Mr. Supey to approve the appointment of Erica Gazda to fill the vacancy on the Wyoming Area Board of Education in accordance with 24 P.S. 3-315. Mrs. Valenti seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, abstained, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, abstained, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

The Oath of Office was administered by Judge Lesa S. Gelb.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of September 25, 2024.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of September 23, 2024.

3. Employee #9800 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
4. Damien Rutkoski, Key Club Advisor, requesting permission for the Key Club and Kiwanis to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for a Kiwanis Breakfast with Santa.
5. Lori DeAngelo, Exeter Events, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center student/faculty parking lot for the Exeter Borough Turkey Trot.
6. Wyoming Area Swim Parents Association requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
7. Employee #11890 submitting letter of resignation.
8. Jennifer Bonita, Wyoming Area Senior Parents Association, requesting permission to change the date for a bingo fundraiser.
9. Employee #20191 submitting a letter of resignation.
10. Employee #20549 requesting permission to extend a maternity leave of absence.
11. Employee #20499 submitting a letter of resignation.
12. Lindsay Dragon, Parenting Autism United, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for PAU's 2nd Annual Valentine Social.
13. Employee #20464 requesting permission to extend her maternity leave of absence.
14. Employee #20527 submitting a letter of resignation.
15. Employee #20680 submitting a letter of resignation.
16. Employee #5695 submitting a letter of resignation.

Summary of Applications Received

School Nurse – 4

LPN – 2

Paraprofessional – 7

Personal Care Aide – 7

Cleaning – 1

Food Service - 1

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Supey asked for approval of the minutes of October 22, 2024. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. **The students in all three of Mrs. Kara Anthony's and Miss Nicole Dileo's 5th grade English Language Arts classes have once again partnered with professors and student teachers from Tamagawa University. The Japanese teachers joined the classroom virtually for their first session on November 1st, and have plans to meet again in January, February, March, and April. Tamagawa University is a school in Machida, Tokyo, Japan.**

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The school will be teaching our fifth graders about Japanese culture, folktales, and customs in the upcoming sessions. Additionally, our fifth graders will have the opportunity to teach their guests about American and Pennsylvanian culture for the final session. For November's lesson, the guests observed the classroom and a lesson about Greek Mythology and Greek and Latin Prefixes and Suffixes.

2. The three Life Skills classes attended Dymond's Farm. The students were able to go on a hayride and pick a pumpkin. They were then able to enjoy a fire, have s'mores, eat lunch, and explore around them all while socializing with one another!
3. The three Life Skills classes attended Trail of Treats at Mohegan Sun Arena. They were able to socialize with other classes and show off their costumes. After, they enjoyed lunch at Grotto Pizza!
4. The Secondary Center Life Skills students attended the Bloomsburg Fair. Admission was paid for through Coffee Cart funds. All students were able to buy their own food from whatever stand they wanted. They were able to try new foods and see all the sights at the Fair!
5. The Secondary Center Life Skills class is continuing with their Coffee Cart this year. They have added yogurt parfaits to the menu. The Coffee Cart continues to help students in functional areas such as socializing, money skills and baking skills.
6. At the conclusion of the marking period, students from the Primary Center, that were Warriors of the week so far this year, had their names put into a raffle to win gift cards to McDonalds. Two students per grade level were chosen. Congratulations!
7. SWPBIS at the Primary Center is collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items to donate to local food pantries. The class with the most items collected will receive a pizza party. Each grade level winner will receive popcorn and a movie. Good luck!!!
8. Officer Bell's Junior Deputy Program at the Primary Center is off to a great start. Students are chosen each month by Officer Bell, based on teacher nominations along with the reason for their selection. Teachers nominate students based on the following: observed acts of kindness, safety awareness, and acts that promote and support our Anti-Bullying Program.

September's Winner: Dante Hamilton, received three nominations. Dante, on a daily basis, assists a fellow classmate from the van. Each morning, he walks her to breakfast. Dante is consistently observed helping his peers, is very kind, and is always sharing with his fellow classmates.

October's Winners: Arlo Geraghty and Mason Rowels: Both have been very helpful in daily tasks with a student in their class. They assist with her wheelchair, continually encourage her to keep going on rough days, and interact with her during breaks.

9. On November 12, fourth grade students were excited to participate in Scholastic Book Club's virtual read aloud with authors Bellan Woodard and Ruby Bridges. Bellan, the author of More than Peach, was the moderator for the program which featured Ruby Bridges reading her book- I am Ruby Bridges. The students were very interested in the story as well as the question and answer period with the authors.

10. 23-24 Future Ready Index Summary

23-24 Future Ready Index Summary								
ELA/Literature								
Building	Achievement (Prof or Adv)*				Growth Standard**			
	WA 22-23	WA 23-24	Change	Diff State Avg (53.9%)	WA 22-23	WA 23-24	Change	Diff State Avg (75.4%)
Primary	54.3%	65.9%	11.6%	12%				
Intermediate	42.3%	49.4%	7.1%	-5%	66.0%	96.0%	30.0%	20.6%
Secondary	47.9%	52.1%	4.2%	-2%	62.0%	87.3%	25.3%	11.9%
MATH/Algebra								
Building	Achievement (Prof or Adv)*				Growth Standard**			
	WA 22-23	WA 23-24	Change	Diff State Avg (40.2%)	WA 22-23	WA 23-24	Change	Diff State Avg (74.9%)
Primary	44.2%	47.1%	2.9%	6.9%				
Intermediate	28.2%	36.3%	8.1%	-3.9%	71.0%	100.0%	29.0%	25.1%
Secondary	10.6%	22.5%	11.9%	-17.7%	57.3%	79.7%	22.4%	4.8%
Science/Biology								
Building	Achievement (Prof or Adv)*				Growth Standard**			
	WA 22-23	WA 23-24	Change	Diff State Avg (59.2%)	WA 22-23	WA 23-24	Change	Diff State Avg (74.7%)
Primary								
Intermediate	72.4%	79.9%	7.5%	20.7%	71.0%	91.0%	20.0%	16.3%
Secondary	41.6%	46.3%	4.7%	-12.9%	54.5%	70.0%	15.5%	-4.7%

***This performance measure represents the percentage of all students, enrolled for a full academic year, scoring Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Exams and/or PSSA Exams.**

****The PVAAS Academic Growth Score presents the school's impact on the change in academic achievement levels of groups of students from year-to-year in each of the state assessed content areas.**

Solicitor's Report

Attorney Ferentino welcomed Erica Gazda to the Board and reported the board discussed in an executive session held for 1 ½ hours, personnel matters, on-going student issues, health care matters and upcoming negotiations for the teachers.

Student Representative's Report

Gage Speece, 2025 Secretary Officer, read the report in the absence of Mia Altavilla. He congratulated all the Fall sports on their successful season. The winter dance is being planned, Winter in the Alps, and they are currently designing a t-shirt.

Denai Dymond, Jr. Class Rep., reported they are planning their Junior Semi-Formal on January 17th at The Banks with a theme of New York, New York. A calendar raffle is being planned in March and they are currently looking for donations.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Butera read the Treasurer's Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	4,030,491.03
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	6,679.09
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	56,972.08
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	162,385.40
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	14,794.16
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	147,095.06
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	798,706.22
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	10,111,814.19

The treasurer's report will be kept on file for audit.

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	125,037.87
Local Services Tax	1,159.82
Per Capita Tax	3,470.26
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>3,516.22</u>
Total:	133,184.17

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Title I – Improving Basic Programs	60,650.23
PCCD Safety & Mental Health Grant	31,780.68
Medicaid Admin Claims	6,578.96
Basic Education Funding	1,403,354.00
Feminine Hygiene Products Fund	3,545.50
Stronger Connections Grant	41,682.32
Property Tax Relief Payment	<u>354,949.99</u>
Total:	1,902,541.68

2024 Real Estate Taxes

George Miller – West Pittston Borough	124,207.24
Thomas Pizano – Exeter Borough	692,009.19
Paul Konopka – Wyoming Borough	527,054.20
Robert Connors – West Wyoming Borough	77,549.03
Wayman Smith – Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	694,685.08
Carol Bardzel – Exeter Twp., Wyoming County	<u>17,817.49</u>
Total:	2,133,322.23

Local Real Estate Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	28,474.86
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2. Approve the November payment of \$82,733.06 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract for Special Education Services and other related services for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Approve the November payment of \$4,958.33 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for the Lighthouse Academy Dual Diagnosis Services for 2024-2025 school year.
4. Approve to ratify the November payment of \$69,742.73 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Approve the agreement between Luzerne Intermediate Unit and Wyoming Area School District for Community and School Based Behavioral Health Teams – IBHS Services: Group & Individual for the 2024-2025 school year.
6. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area School District Tax Collectors to receive compensation regarding collection of installment payments for 2024 for real estate taxes in the amount of \$1,897.50.

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7. Approve the following payments for paid property taxes for the year 2024:

Pin#67-F10NE2-003-017-000	1,169.84
Pin#66-F10S4-006-011-000	2,430.13
Pin#16-E11SW1-005-005-000	<u>635.12</u>
Total:	4,235.09

8. Approve the following payment to vendor:

	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
CM3 Building Solutions (Ratify)	App#10	21,201.00	Sec. Ctr.	Lighting; Safe Schools Grant
CM3 Building Solutions	App#9	256,825.36	Sec. Ctr.	HVAC
CM3 Building Solutions	App#10	<u>176,167.80</u>	Sec. Ctr.	HVAC
Total:		454,194.16		

9. Approve amendments to employment agreement for Betsy O'Malley, Food Service Director.

10. Approve Memorandum of Understanding for Project AWARE effective November 19, 2024 through September 29, 2026.

11. Approve the Wyoming Area Special Education Services Agreement with Dallas Area School District for the 2024-2025 RSY School Year at Wyoming Area Life Skills Intermediate Center.

12. Approve the general ledger account:

Bill Listing: November 2024	1,462,587.20	
Prepays: October 2024	<u>545,286.61</u>	2,007,873.81
Cafeteria Account:	113,202.31	
Athletic Account:	<u>7,548.00</u>	<u>120,750.31</u>
Total:		2,128,624.10

Motion by Mr. Butera, second by Mrs. Valenti, to accept the finance report.

Roll Call: Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Butera, Yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Education Report

Mr. Kachmarsky read the Education Report.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirement that the District's Federal Programs (Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV) have been planned for the 2024-2025 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District's Business Office.
2. Approve Agreements Regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Free Appropriate Public Education Stipulation for student #3000287, pending final approval by the school solicitor.
3. Approve Agreement Regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Free Appropriate Public Education Stipulation for student #3002139, pending final approval by the school solicitor.
4. Approve the request of employee #9800 to take a medical leave of absence for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

5. Approve the revised professional substitute list for the 2024-2025 school year.
6. Approve the request of employee #20549 to extend a maternity leave of absence to April 22, 2025.
7. Approve the request of employee #20462 to extend a maternity leave of absence to April 3, 2025.
8. Accept, with regret, employee #5695, Faculty Member, submitting a letter of resignation effective January 17, 2025.

Motion by Mr. Kachmarsky, second by Mr. Campenni, to accept the education report.

Roll Call: Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Butera, Yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Activities Report

Mr. Supey read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Swim Parents Association to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Tech fundraiser – 11/18/24 (People purchase a bubble from a poster as an entry to a TV raffle)
 - Apparel Sale – 11/18/24
 - Sponsorship Signs to hang in the pool area- 11/20/24
 - Super Bowl fundraiser – 12/1/24
 - Benefit Night at Booyah – 12/8/24 to 12/10/24
 - 50/50 Raffle – At each home meet
 - Pizza Sale – 12/12/24
2. Approve the request of Jennifer Bonita, Wyoming Area Senior Parents Association, to change the date of their bingo fundraiser at the Secondary Center from November 17, 2024 to January 19, 2025 with a snow date of January 26, 2025, pending approval by the building principal and food service director.
3. Approve Theodore Lasher as a volunteer coach for elementary wrestling for the 2024-2025 Winter sports season.
4. Approve Charles Johnson as a volunteer coach for elementary and varsity wrestling for the 2024-2025 Winter sports season.
5. Approve the following head coaches for the 2024-2025 Spring sports season:

Baseball	Rob Lemoncelli
Boys Lacrosse	Mason Byers
Girls Lacrosse	Carl DeLuca
Boys Tennis	Bill Roberts
Track & Field	Joe Pizano

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Motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi, to accept the activities report.

Roll Call: Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Butera, Yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Campenni read the Building Report.

1. Approve the request of Damien Rutkoski, Key Club Advisor, for the Key Club and Kiwanis to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for a Kiwanis Breakfast with Santa to be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, 2024, 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and food service director.
2. Approve the request of Lori DeAngelo, Exeter Events, to use the Secondary Center student/faculty parking lot for the Exeter Borough Turkey Trot on Saturday, November 30, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal.
3. Accept, with regret, employee #11890 submitting letter of resignation as a food service employee effective November 8, 2024.
4. Accept, with regret, employee #20191 submitting a letter of resignation as a LPN effective December 3, 2024.
5. Accept, with regret, employee #20499 submitting a letter of resignation as a Personal Care Aide effective January 3, 2025.
5. Approve the appointment of Kelly Romanchuk as a Personal Care Aide.
6. Approve the appointment of Rachael Seamans as a Personal Care Aide.
7. Approve the appointment of Chelsea Serino as a Personal Care Aide.
8. Approve the appointment of Tykia Welkey as a Personal Care Aide.
9. Approve the appointment of Elizabeth Daigle as a Paraprofessional.
10. Approve the appointment of Sara Zambito as a Paraprofessional.
11. Approve the appointment of Christine Wagner as a School Nurse.
12. Approve the appointment of _____ as a LPN.
13. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list for the 2024-2025 school year.
14. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Wyoming Area School District and Wyoming Area Education Support Professionals Association ESPA/PSEA effective November 1, 2024.
15. Approve the request of Lindsay Dragon, Parenting Autism United, to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for PAU's 2nd Annual Valentine Social on Saturday, February 15, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and food service director.

16. Accept, with regret, the letter of resignation of employee #20527 as a personal care aide effective immediately.
17. Accept, with regret, the letter of resignation of employee #20680 as a personal care aide effective December 20, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Campenni, second by Mr. Kopko, to accept the building report.

At this time, Mr. Campenni motioned to table item #12. Seconded by Mr. Supey.

Roll Call: Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Butera, Yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed to table Item #12.

On the Question: Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked why item #12 was tabled. Dr. Pollard responded that we don't have a candidate.

Roll call for finance report: Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Butera, Yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mr. Supey read the Policy Report.

1. Approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies:

Volume II – 2024 policies:

- Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products (pupils)
- Policy 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia (pupils)
- Policy 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products (employees)
- Policy 351 – Controlled Substance Abuse (employees)
- Policy 707 – Use of School Facilities
- Policy 815.1 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education (new policy)

Volume III – 2024 policies:

- Policy 146.1 – Trauma-Informed Approach
- Policy 218 – Student Discipline
- Policy 218.1 – Weapons
- Policy 218.2 – Terroristic Threats
- Policy 801 – Public Records
- Policy 803 – School Calendar
- Policy 805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Policy 805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel
- Policy 806 – Child Abuse
- Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events
- Policy 909 – Municipal Government Relations

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Volume IV – 2024 Policies

Policy 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying

Motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi to accept the policy report.

On the Question: Joanna Pechal, Exeter, questioned the tobacco and vaping products policy. Attorney Ferentino responded it is expansion of some of the terms of items like vapes. The law and state level has been adjusted. Mrs. Pechal stated the restroom outside of cafeteria is being used for vaping and it’s not being addressed. Dr. Pollard responded that they are looking into purchasing vape detectors in those restrooms. Mrs. Pechal also stated that bullying is not being dealt with by administration.

Roll Call: Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Butera, Yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Police Report

Mr. Supey read the Police Report.

**Wyoming Area Police Department
Monthly Report for October 2024
Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>		<u>COUNT</u>
0639	Theft – Under \$50. – All Other	1
1532	Possession of Knife	1
1810	Drug Violations	1
2400	Disorderly Conduct	3
2430	Fighting (Affray)	1
2450	Harassment	6
2664	All Other Offenses – All Other (Misc.)	9
2811	Curfew Law (Juvenile) - Male	2
3400	Mental Health	2
3620	Disturbances – Other (Fights, Disputes, Etc.)	2
4022	Non-Criminal – Suspicious Person	1
5004	Lost & Found – Found Articles	1
7001	911 Hangup	1
7014	Public Service – Others (Officer Assist)	1
7501	EMS Assist	1
7503	Assist Fire Dept. - Gas Leak	2
7505	Assist Other Agencies – WARP	2
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	5
TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	3
JUV	Juvenile Petition Filed	1
	Total	46

Open Discussion:

Dr. Pollard reported that the play will take place on Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Pollard welcomed Mrs. Gazda to the school board.

- Vanessa Smith, Exeter- Future Ready Index
- Joanna Pechal, Exeter- Wants a meeting regarding her son with Mr. Pacchioni and Mr. English
- Jim Chickson, West Pittston – Band Trailer
- Brenda Jurchak, Exeter – Getting students to join the band, Chorus Festival held at Dallas Area.

Mr. Supey stated that the reorganization meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Pollard stated that a FID day will be held tomorrow.

To listen to the meeting in its entirety, log on to the YouTube channel on the Wyoming Area website.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi.

Michael Supey, President

David Alberigi, Secretary